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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/766,650	01/23/2001	Patrick Vohlgemuth	108412	4305

25944 7590 07/15/2003

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. BOX 19928
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320

[REDACTED]
EXAMINER

SCHEUERMANN, DAVID W

[REDACTED]
ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2834

DATE MAILED: 07/15/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	VOHLGEMUTH, PATRICK
Examiner	Art Unit David W. Scheuermann 2834

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 May 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 11-16 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 17-26 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,8-10 and 27-31 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 3-7 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 23 January 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

The argument that the drawings need not show every claimed feature is not deemed persuasive. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of § 1.83 (a):

§ 1.83 Content of drawing.

(a) The drawing in a nonprovisional application must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. However, conventional features disclosed in the description and claims, where their detailed illustration is not essential for a proper understanding of the invention, should be illustrated in the drawing in the form of a graphical drawing symbol or a labeled representation (e.g., a labeled rectangular box).

The examiner holds that the diameter of 300mm is an essential feature of the invention and must be shown. Furthermore, should the invention become a patent, this feature of the invention would be more readily apparent by viewing drawings with the diameter labeled. Finally, it is noted that Neumann, US 4831301 has certain diameters of interest labeled on the cover page. Therefor the objection to the drawing is reasonable and is maintained because the diameter of 300 mm is not shown.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakahara et al., US 5859486. Nakahara et al. in figure 78 show a lamination strip with sectors 9, joined by link 314 (a middle portion) having a narrowing on either side of the middle portion.

Claims 28-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by King, US 4868439. King shows strip of sectors interconnected by links 39 (which are inherently deformable) in figure 4A. Further note that figure 5 depicts a bar which is attached and fixed to the periphery of a stack formed by the stacked layers as shown in figure 1.

Re claims 29 and 30, note that the bars cover some links 39, yet are engaged between other links.

As to claim 31, note circular edge 57 in figure 4A.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurosawa, JP 12215745 in view of Nakahara et al., US 5859486. Kurosawa shows a strip of lamination having links 13 which extent radially outside the radius of the circular edge of the sectors as shown in figure 4 and 5. Kurosawa does not expressly disclose each sector having teeth, that is more than one tooth. Nakahara et al. teach forming more than one tooth on each sector which inherently reduces the ratio of the amount of material used to form the linking structure per material used to form a tooth. At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use more than one tooth per sector on the Kurosawa strip. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this for any of reducing the ratio of the material used to make the link per tooth, create a finer tooth pitch, and reducing the number of joints in the stator structure.

Claims 9 and 10 recite complementary profiles on the docking flanks. Nakahara teach the notch and tooth complementary profiles in figure 117, which would have been obvious to apply to the Kurosawa reference to aid in alignment during the deformation process.

Claims 19, 20 and 21 recite optimal sector angular width and stack diameter, respectively, which are viewed as optimum or workable ranges discoverable through routine experimentation. Case law has established that such optimization is not patentable, see In re Aller et al., (CCPA) 105 USPQ 233, that " ...it is not inventive to discover optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation."

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 17-26 are allowed.

Claims 3-7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David W. Scheuermann whose telephone number is (703) 308-9637. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

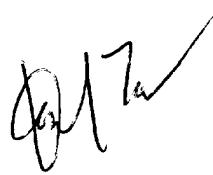
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nestor Ramirez can be reached on (703) 308-1371. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7724 for regular communications and (703) 872-9319 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

dws

July 9, 2003



KARL TAMAI
PRIMARY EXAMINER